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Individual
and National

FREEDOM IN ASIA

Cooperation between East and West

a speech by

George H. Greene, Jr., *President*
The Committee for a Free Asia, Inc.

delivered before a dinner
in honor of a group of
Asian Chemists
visiting the United States

San Francisco, California
August 26, 1951

THE Committee for a Free Asia is happy to join with the representatives of the American Chemical Society and the Economic Cooperation Administration in welcoming this group of chemical scientists to the United States. When Kipling said, "East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet," he could not foresee a gathering of Easterners and Westerners like the one around this table, meeting in the good fellowship of common interests and aims. Neither could he foresee a meeting of minds such as is now being effected across the Pacific, drawing people together to face their mutual problems of economic cooperation, prevention of disease, cultural exchanges and preservation of freedom. In welcoming you here, I thought you would like to know something about the present-day cooperation between people of the East and the West in the realm of cultural studies and political science.

Naturally, there can be no real cooperation unless both sides agree on the fundamental premise and aim of joining together. There must be, first and always, a mutual interchange of thoughts and ideas leading toward a common, acceptable conclusion.

In the field of cultural studies and political institutions, the fundamental premise of cooperation between East and West is this: In the world today there is in process a continuing revolution leading toward the establishment and universal recognition of the value and dignity of the human individual. This principle was set forth one hundred and seventy-five years ago in the American Declaration of Independence and in the Constitution which established that all men are created free and equal and endowed with certain inalienable rights, such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The American people have not yet attained perfection in the observance of this principle, and the revolution toward this end is still going on. We, in common with the people of Asia, are working toward universal recognition of the right of every man to equal treatment as an individual and the right to improve his living conditions in the way he desires.

With this as the fundamental premise of the people of both Asia and the West, a mutual interchange of thoughts and ideas should lead toward common understanding and cooperation seeking universal recognition of basic human rights.

The Committee for a Free Asia was founded to establish channels of direct communication between the people of Asia and the people of the free world everywhere. These channels of communication will permit interchange of information and views concerning opportunities for cooperation in improving the welfare, knowledge and democratic organization of the people of Asia. The Committee believes that in this way it can provide the people of Asia with a means of expression so that they may formulate their own program of economic and educational development and obtain such aid as they require to realize for themselves the aims common to all free men. The West also can gain a more clear understanding of the ancient philosophies of the East and the contribution of those philosophies to present-day political thinking.

In developing our program we have designed several of our operating branches so that they may utilize the willing cooperation of the Asian people. In the United States our Student Relations Branch, Overseas Chinese Contacts Branch, Asian Residents Contacts Branch and Editorial Branch will seek the participation of Asians now in this country in the formulation of pro-

grams and projects which will benefit their Asian friends back home. Our Student Contacts Branch now is considering a project which would provide a limited number of scholarships for Asian students to study in the United States. It also has in mind the providing of a guesthouse, workshop and meeting place for Asian students passing through San Francisco or resident in this area. This branch has published a prospectus inviting cooperation in its proposed plan of work with Asian students in the United States. The Student Contacts and Editorial Branches jointly are planning publication of a magazine for distribution among Asian students, visitors, residents in this country and their compatriots abroad. This magazine would publish articles written by Asians, and by American scholars in Asian studies. Our Editorial Branch hopes to issue a series of pamphlets which will express the views of Asian nationals concerning ways and means of cooperation between Asians and ourselves to improve production, livelihood, education and understanding of basic democratic procedures in the countries of Asia. Our Lecture Branch is preparing a series of lectures by Asians before American audiences. Our Overseas Chinese and Asian Residents Contacts Branches are inviting highly competent and well-informed Asians to assist the Committee in working out programs whereby Asians may help in sending back to their kinfolk a hopeful message of friendly aid. Our Radio Free Asia will require the wholehearted assistance of our Asian friends in the programming of news, news commentary, dialogue and entertainment which will be broadcast to the people of Asia beginning in the near future. All of these programs depend upon the counseling and active participation of Asians, so that our programs may be constructively

developed in the terms of mutual interest and understanding which will contribute to the improvement of the general welfare of the people of Asia.

There exists an urgent need for cooperation between the people of Asia and the United States in order to ensure recognition of the belief common to all free men, that man is endowed with inalienable rights which cannot be denied him. Americans have long accepted the principle that all people have the right to determine their own form of government. We have, therefore, refrained from interference in the processes by which other people have sought to work out their problems of self-determination. Now that we have seen the Kremlin launch Russia on the path of world imperialism and enslavement of free peoples, Americans are aroused to assist their free brothers of all races to maintain freedom against communist aggression. In no land where communist imperialism has come to power have human rights and human aspirations been respected. The promises the communists make become mockeries of their original meaning. Strangely, in appealing to those whom they wish to enslave, the communists promise freedom, ownership of land, equality, social justice and free education. Those who have observed what happens to democratic institutions when the iron curtain closes down know that the people then become slaves of the Politburo. As in communist China, ownership of land makes the peasants feudal serfs bound to deliver the products of their toil to the communist state; equality means common servitude to Stalin; social justice is the exclusive enjoyment of the Politburo, the Army and the Party to live at the expense of the rest of the people; education means indoctrination and regimentation under the twisted prin-

ciples of Stalinist communism.

The American people believe that democratic government and free enterprise are the best means to preserve the inalienable rights of man. This Committee, which is a private corporation of free individuals, is an expression of the American system of free enterprise. We want to assist the people of Asia in securing the extension and protection of the true principles of freedom against the big lie of communist promises. Asian individuals and organizations anxious to cooperate with us in their own interest for this purpose are urged to do so. This private corporation, an example of American free enterprise, was originated and is operated by believers in the capitalist system. When I use the word capitalist I know that some of you here tonight, and many of your compatriots, may think of capitalism as exploitation—that is, a system by which profits of production are drained off into the pockets of a few. We in America, however, think of capitalism as a system under which the benefits of ever increasing production are spread among the people; a system which enables the people to save and invest in further production. As you go on your tour to visit chemical factories in the United States you will see vast enterprises principally owned by thousands of individuals such as farmers, workers and teachers who invest their small savings.

This privately incorporated Committee is another enterprise to spread the benefits of democracy and freedom. We wish the people of Asia to participate in the distribution of the benefits of this enterprise among their own people. The benefits will be greater respect for the individual, freedom to attain greater production, the right to enjoy the fruits of one's own toil, and the right to develop as one desires.